



Dimitrijevic Report



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E-NEWS

MILWAUKEE COUNTY BOARD RESPONSIBILITIES

- Vice-Chairwoman, Health & Human Needs Committee
- Parks, Energy, & Environment Committee
- Intergovernmental Relations Committee
- Personnel Committee
- Milwaukee County Commission on Aging
- Lakefront Development Advisory Commission

COMMUNITY MEMBERSHIPS

- Bay View Neighborhood Association
- Honorary Capital Campaign Committee, Bay View Historical Society
- South Shore Park Watch
- Bay View Lions Club
- Clarke Square Weed & Seed Steering Committee
- Inter-Organizational Council of Bay View
- Bay View High School Alumni Association
- 9 to 5, National Association of Working Women
- South Side Scholarship Foundation
- City of Milwaukee Affordable Housing Task Force
- Bay View Manufacturers & Commerce Association
- Bay View Historical Society
- The Association of Marquette University Women
- Sierra Club
- Board of Directors, Emerge Wisconsin
- American Council of Young Political Leaders
- UMOS Community Service Block Grant Advisory Committee

Dear Friends,

We are happy to continue providing you monthly updates via e-news, a more efficient tool of communication. Also please remember that the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors will be on legislative summer recess during the month of August. Regularly scheduled Committee and County Board meetings will resume in September.

In this July edition you will find:

From Marina's Notebook: Disappointing State budget for Milwaukee County
Walker overreacts to projected budget deficit and oversteps authority
Green Print Update
Leave the Hoan Alone!
Pulaski Indoor Pool Re-Opened
South Shore Park Pavilion Parks Concessions and Bathroom Upgrades
Bay View Dog Park Update
Supervisor Marina Dimitrijevic Hosts Leaders from West Africa
Did you Know?? (Milwaukee County Cooperative Extension)

From Marina's Notebook

Governor Jim Doyle recently signed the next State Budget into law. He vetoed the sales tax for Milwaukee County Parks, Transit, and Public Safety. Like many of you, I am wondering what part of YES did he not understand? We held a public referendum in Milwaukee County, and voters expressed their support for a sales tax increase and property tax decrease, which would provide dedicated funding for transit and our Milwaukee County Parks.

Unfortunately, the Governor vetoed the compromise that the State Legislature had presented and completely ignored the voters of Milwaukee County. What I found the most bothersome is that, after vetoing what we had clearly asked for, the Governor failed to present any solutions to provide dedicated funding for these important Milwaukee County quality of life services.

Even worse, I now hear that some State Legislators and the Governor are interested in creating a parks district. We never asked for that. In addition, Milwaukee County is doing a great job managing our great parks system. Governance is not the problem, the lack of resources is. In fact, Milwaukee County has won many awards and continues to provide outstanding service in our parks system despite major budget cuts and a lack of dedicated funding.

A parks district would add yet another layer of government and would provide less accountability to residents. We are constantly fighting privatization

requests in our parks. Just imagine what would happen without oversight and public input in Milwaukee County. My suggestion is simple: focus your energy on allowing Milwaukee County to increase our sales tax in order to provide dedicated funding for parks, transit and property tax relief. We are not asking for a parks district.

Walker's Unauthorized Overreaction

As you may have seen, County Executive Scott Walker and the County Board disagree about the projected budget deficit and how to correct it. The County Executive said it was \$14 million, while County Board staff and the Department of Audit later found that it was more like \$650,000.

Using the Administration's numbers, the County Executive made major budget adjustments such as closing our indoor pools, reducing courthouse hours, and implementing a 35-hour workweek for employees. He did this without working with the County Board. His move to implement employee furloughs was later disqualified by an arbitrator. Also, after major public discontent and a press conference featuring a petition drive, which I led with over 100 pool users, the County Executive decided to reopen the indoor pools. Lastly, the shortened building hours caused long lines outside of the Courthouse, causing people to miss their court appearances and creating a major headache for residents serving on juries. This decision was also reversed.

If the County Executive had worked with the County Board, I think we could have been able to work together for a more appropriate corrective action plan. Instead, every year, the County Executive continues to make budget decisions on his own instead of working with the County Board to develop the best solution possible.

Green Print Update

At my request, the Milwaukee County Department of Audit will present their analysis and audit of our recycling programs to the County Board in September. In addition, we are still working toward ensuring that the Green Print legislation is being correctly implemented. Most importantly, I would like to see the position which oversees the implementation of the Green Print become a full-time position dedicated to these efforts, so that we can maximize grant opportunities and move quicker on our energy efficiency programs.

Leave the Hoan Alone!

The State of Wisconsin issued a report this month detailing upcoming maintenance costs for the Hoan Bridge. Unfortunately, after seeing these numbers, some elected officials are questioning the need for this bridge. In fact, one City of Milwaukee Alderman is proposing the removal of the bridge completely! Highway 794 is maintained by Milwaukee County, and I believe the County should have a say as to the future of this important infrastructure link.

In the past few years, we have seen considerable economic development in our south shore neighborhoods along Layton and Pennsylvania Avenues. Thanks to the enhanced Marquette Interchange, we in Bay View can access all directions via the freeway from Madison to Green Bay from 794. Lastly, the Hoan Bridge connects us with the rest of the City and especially downtown. This is important to our local businesses and adds to the attractiveness of our neighborhoods to homebuyers. We should make the necessary repairs and leave the Hoan alone!

Pulaski Indoor Pool Re-Opened!

Last month, Milwaukee County Supervisors Marina Dimitrijevic and Johnny L. Thomas joined more than 100 Milwaukee County residents to rally support for the Pulaski and Noyes indoor pools, which the County Executive had earlier decided to close until after Labor Day. The Supervisors were joined by Supervisor Chris Larson, Supervisor John F. Weishan, Jr., and a number of pool users disappointed with the County Executive's prior decision.

Then, moments before both Supervisors Dimitrijevic and Thomas launched a petition drive to collect signatures from hundreds of residents disappointed with the decision, the County Executive informed Supervisors of his decision to reverse course and reopen both pools. The petition drive will continue to urge the County Executive to keep the pools open in the 2010 County Budget.

"I thank my colleagues on the County Board, and the many taxpaying citizens that were left upstream by the earlier decision, for making calls, sending e-mails, and putting extra pressure on the County Executive to keep these pools open for affordable, rehabilitative water exercises," said Supervisor Dimitrijevic. "Although the County Executive claims this reversal was due to advice from the Corporation Counsel, we all know that, deep down inside, it was the pressure from the public, including senior citizens, that led to this sudden turnaround. We know the recent negative press played a huge role. It's no coincidence that this decision was made just moments before our news conference."

"The County Executive's decision to reconsider this closure is welcome news for the hundreds of people who use these pools each week," Supervisor Thomas said. "Had he consulted with the County Board and the public earlier, we could have avoided this scenario altogether. As work progresses on the 2010 County Budget, we at the County Board will work to come up with some more creative solutions for these pools, such as restructured hours of operation or a different fee structure."



South Shore Park Pavilion Parks Concessions and Bathroom Upgrades

Milwaukee County Parks concessions are now available in the back of the South Shore Pavilion. This will help produce revenue for the parks system and provide an additional public service to parks users. In addition, the pavilion bathrooms will be remodeled by the end of this summer according to the Milwaukee County Parks Department.

Bay View Dog Park Update

Thank you to the many residents who joined us for an informational meeting on the proposed dog park in Bay View Park. The majority of speakers favored the idea of having a dog park located in the Bay View neighborhood. However, some voiced opposition to it being located within Bay View Park on the lakefront. Parks Director Sue Black is evaluating the comments made at this meeting and working with the County Board on the next step. It is our hope that a consensus can be found on a location in Bay View. The message is clear that the neighborhood would like to see a smaller, neighborhood dog park in the community.

Supervisor Dimitrijevic Hosts Leaders from West Africa

Supervisor Marina Dimitrijevic hosted leaders from countries within West Africa, such as Ghana, this month at the Milwaukee County Board. They visited to learn about local and federal government in conjunction with Marquette University's Les Aspin Program. Supervisor Dimitrijevic is also a graduate of this program and traveled to Kenya and Tanzania in 2004. She was happy to receive these leaders and thanks Sue Shields from the Personnel and Ethics Board for providing a great presentation on ethics and anti-corruption to these special guests.





Did you know?

The Milwaukee County Cooperative Extension connects people to university knowledge they can use. By connecting county residents to up-to-date, objective, practical, research-based knowledge, we help them grow, change and prosper. They become more self-sufficient, lead healthier and safer lives, form strong and nurturing families, and thrive economically. Our primary customers are the people who live and work in Milwaukee County, both adults and youth. A special effort is made to reach out to those who are traditionally underserved including minorities, low-income families, and people with disabilities. Many County residents value high-quality, low-cost educational opportunities that emphasize practical skills they can put to use immediately. The Cooperative Extension's offerings include Master Beekeeping & the Urban Apiculture Institute, Foreclosure Prevention, Nature in the Parks, 4-H Community Clubs, Master Gardeners, Youth Development, Poverty Awareness for Community Engagement (PACE), Horticulture Help Line (414-256-4664), and Rent a Garden. For more information on any of these programs, contact the Extension at 414-256-4600.